

# Military Ethical Decision Making

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# Objectives

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1. Explain the necessity to incorporate personal morals and beliefs when dealing with ethics.
2. Describe military ethical decisions an officer may encounter.
3. List differences and similarities between military and clinical ethical decisions.

# Overview

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## Ethical competence

- moral sensibility
- moral responsiveness
- moral reasoning
- moral character
- moral value
- moral advocacy & leadership



# Decision Making Models

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Frameworks based on ethics

Guide process

Hypothetical vs. real decisions

Moral judgment

Used day to day

Reflect theoretical perspective

# Levels of Ethical Thinking

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Systems - world view

Principles - identified

Rules - devised/derived

Decisions - applied

## Familiar Techniques for Decision Making

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Triage - greatest good

Relationship - social contract, roles

Operational/working -efficiency,  
effective

Costs/benefits

Decision tree/probability

Decision matrix/multiple options

- mathematical

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## Familiar Techniques for Decision Making

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Least desirable option

- amelioration, mediation

Motivational

- altruistic
- pragmatic
- hedonistic

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## Familiar Techniques for Decision Making

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### Emotional

- sensory
- language
- bias

### Consensus

- compromise
- conviction

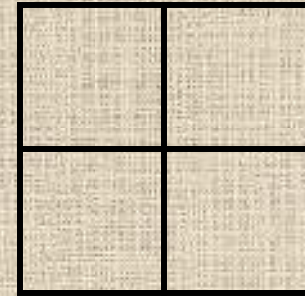


## Model: Jonsen '92

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“4 Boxes”

1. Medical indications
2. Patient preferences
3. Quality of Life
4. Contextual features



## Model: Aroskar '97

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1. Review the overall situation.
  2. Identify the significant facts.
  3. ID stakeholders involved or affected.
  4. ID relevant legal data.
  5. ID specific conflicts of ethical principles or values.
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## Model: Aroskar '97

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6. ID possible choices and consequences.
7. ID practical constraints: legal, organizational, political, economic.
8. Make recommendation for action.
9. Take action.
10. Review and evaluate after action.



# Ethics in Global Engagements

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What is different?

- austerity
- familiarity
- focus
- scope
- paradox
- culture
- support systems

# Ethics in Global Engagements

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What is the same

- care
- actions
- decisions
- accountability
- patterns
- ADL requirements

# Unique Ethical Dilemmas

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- Remote location
- Power differential
- Important work
- Compassionate concern
- Communication challenges



# Unique Ethical Dilemmas

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- Cultural preferences
- Cultural practices
- Informed consent
- Commitment to mission

# Ethics in Military Operations

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## Commitment to mission

- belief in purpose/methods
- alternatives
- duration
- causation